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MS AF  
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1651

PATENT  
0032-0254P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al. Conf.: 7526  
Appl. No.: 09/530,013 Group: 1651  
Filed: April 24, 2000 Examiner: R. Gitomer  
For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF BRAIN  
NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING THE  
USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR COATED WITH SILICONE  
OR PLASTICS (As Amended).

REPLY AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 25, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated April 14, 2004, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

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